WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1

1. An elongated device for medical procedures comprising a superelastic member having a first section with a first set of properties and an adjacent second section having a second set of properties which have been altered from the first set of properties.

2. The elongated device of claim 1 wherein the altered properties are mechanical or physical properties.

3 The elongated device of claim 1, wherein the altered physical property comprises reduced superelasticity.

4. The elongated device of claim 2, wherein the superelastic member has a distal end with an altered property.

5. The elongated device of claim 4, wherein the section of altered property is at least about 3 cm in length.

6. The elongated device of claim 1, further comprising an elongated proximal member having proximal and distal ends, wherein the superelastic member has proximal and distal ends and the proximal end is secured to the distal end of the proximal member.

Sub A2

7. The elongated device of claim 1, wherein the superelastic member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

8. The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the section having at least one altered property has been further alloyed.

9. The elongated device of claim 8, wherein the section having at least one altered property has been further alloyed with an easily diffusable element.

sub A3 10. The elongated device of claim 9, wherein the easily diffusable element is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon and nitrogen.

11. A method of manufacturing a medical device comprising:

a) providing an elongated superelastic member;

b) atmospherically isolating a section of the superelastic member; and

c) exposing the isolated section to a diffusable element to alter at least one property of the section.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of alloying the section comprises reducing the superelasticity of the section.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of alloying the section comprises exposing the section to a diffusable element.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the diffusable element is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon and nitrogen.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the isolated section comprises a distal end of the superelastic member.

16. A method of manufacturing a medical device, comprising:

a) providing an elongated superelastic member;

b) cold-working a section of the superelastic member;

c) thermally isolating at least part of the cold worked section of the superelastic member; and

d) altering one or more properties of the section by heat treating.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the altering a property comprises decreasing the superelasticity of the heat treated section of the superelastic member.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the heat treatment of the section comprises exposing the section to a temperature between about 250 ° C to about 800° C for a period of time of about 5 to about 40 min.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the section comprises a distal end of the superelastic member.